the minimum support price. However, Vijayanagram Centre of Andhra Pradesh, the prices ruled below the minimum price support level for sometime due to varietal differences.

(c) In order to check the prices to fall at below minimum support perice, the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation has been undertaking price support operations.

Propagation of Palm Oil Cultivation In Karnataka

1537. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government is aware of the Karnataka Government's plans to propagate Palm-oil cultivation in the State in a big way ;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has sought any subsidy toward area expansion programmes for Palm-oil cultivation; and

(c) whether the Central Government would consider the establishment of a National Research Centre on Palm-oil in Karnataka ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A subsidy to the extent of 75% of the cost of the planting material subject to a ceiling of Rs. 3,750/- per hectare is being provided to all the Oil Palm growers and a subsidy to the extent of 50% of the cost of cultivation (Rs. 12,500/- per ha.) subject to a ceiling of Rs. 75,000/- (6 ha.) for individual Oil Palm grower's family are being provided for the gestation period of 4 years to promote Oil Palm cultivation during Eighth Plan in potential States including Karnataka. This subsidy is being shared between the Government of India and the concerned State Governments on 75 : 25 basis.

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultura Rsearch (ICAR) has decided to establish a field Station of the National Research Centre on Oil Palm at Sathanur Farm in Mandya District in Karnataka.

संसद सदस्यों का कृषि मंत्रालय से पत्राचार

1538. **श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल** : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1 अप्रैल, 1990 से 31 मार्च, 1993 की अवधि के दौरान सांसदों द्वारा मंत्रालय को कितने पत्र लिखे गए और उनका वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ख) उनमें से कितने पत्रों की पावती भेजी गई ;

(ग) कितने पत्रों के अन्तिम उत्तर भेजे गए ; और

(घ) मंत्रालय द्वारा क्रमश : सकारात्मक और नकारात्मक उत्तर वाले भेजे गए अंतिम पत्रों के पृथक-पृथक आंकड़े क्या हैं ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविन्द नेताम) : (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है तथा सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Post Harvest Losses

1539. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state ;

(a) what is the total post harvest losses of various agriculture products in the country ;

(b) what is the value thereof ; and

(c) what are the steps taken to develop post harvest technology and its utilisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) The losses (as percentage of production) at producer's level have been estimated as 4.34% in case of Paddy, 3.20% in case of Wheat, 5.01% in case of Jowar, 2.17% in case of Bajra